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FIG. 2A

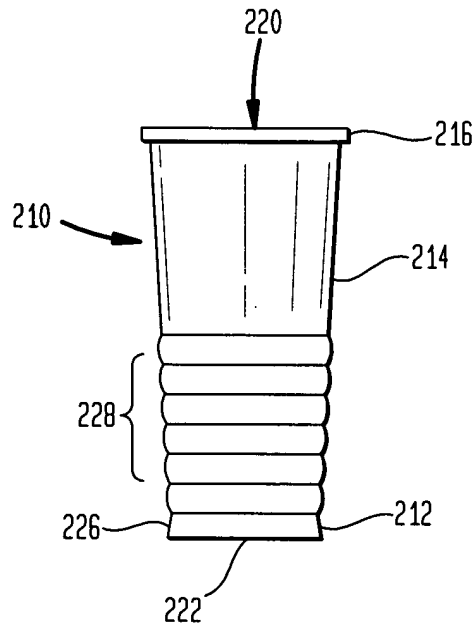


FIG. 2B

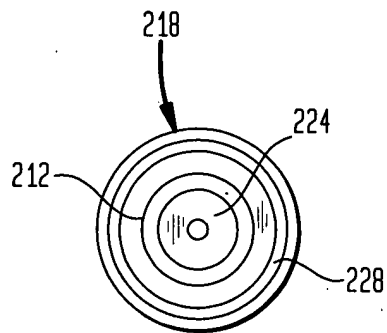
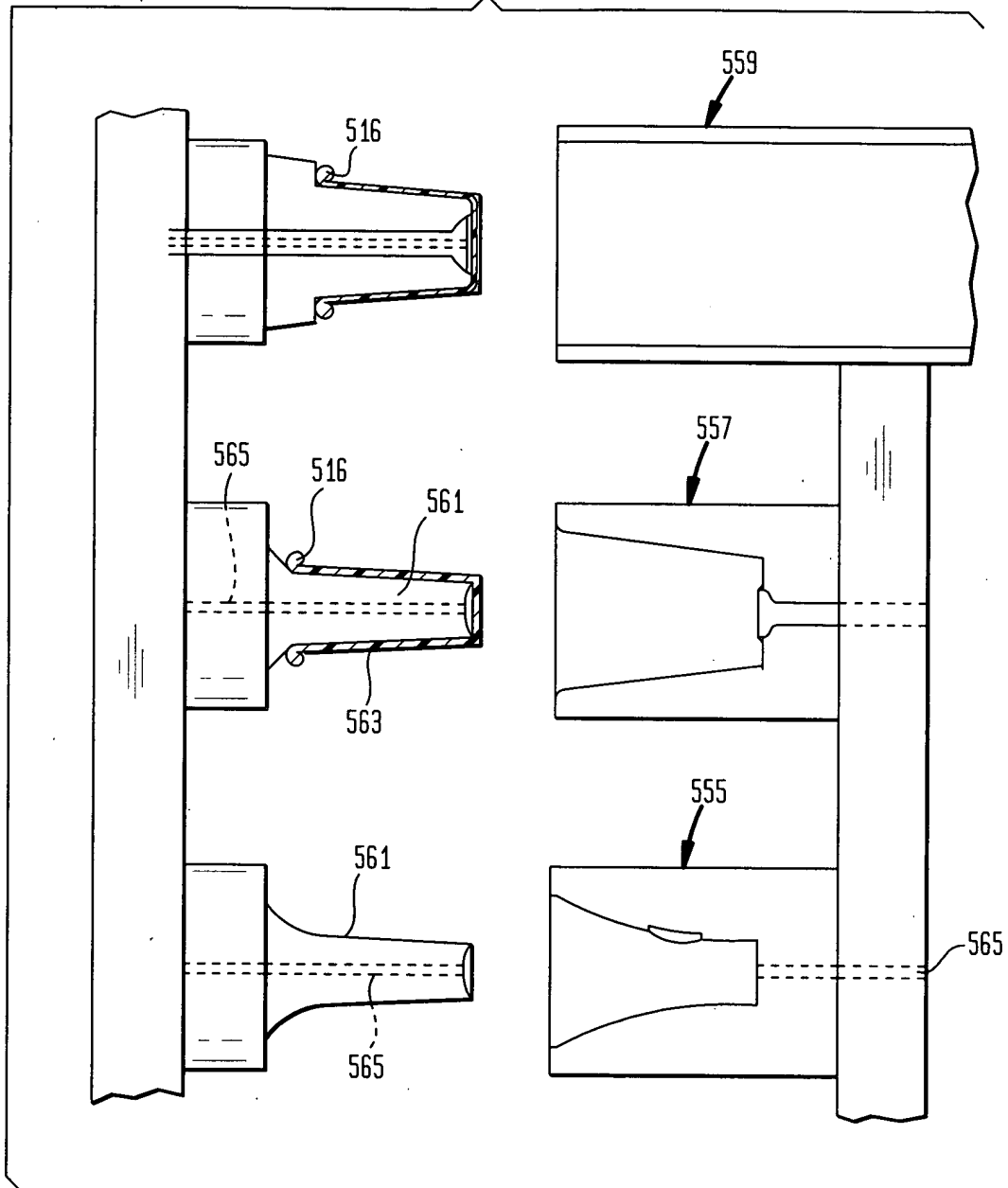


FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram of a tapered optical fiber. The fiber has a rectangular base labeled 312 and a top opening labeled 314. The side walls are labeled 328. A dashed line indicates the central axis. A horizontal double-headed arrow at the top is labeled ΔT , representing the diameter difference.

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FIG. 5



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FIG. 6A

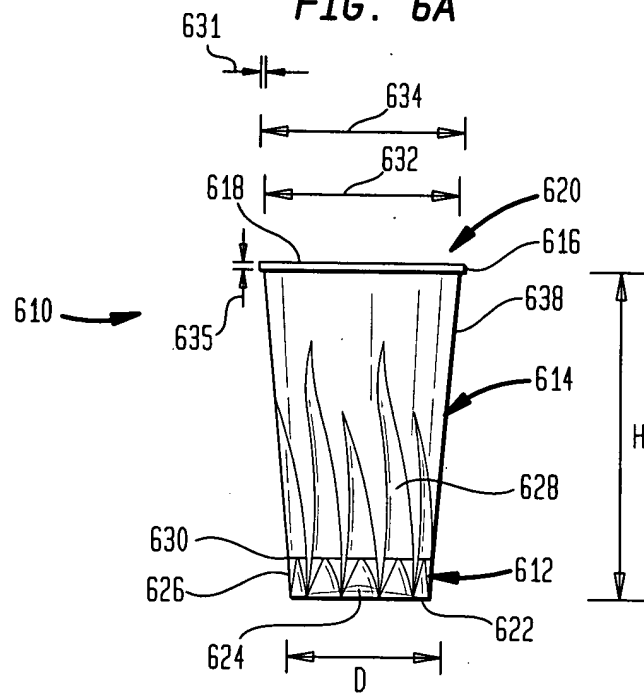


FIG. 6B

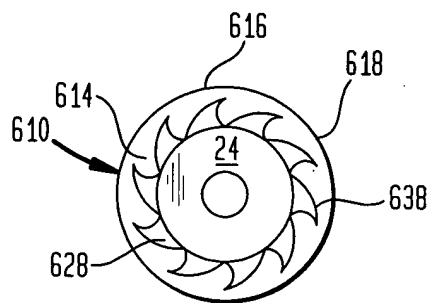
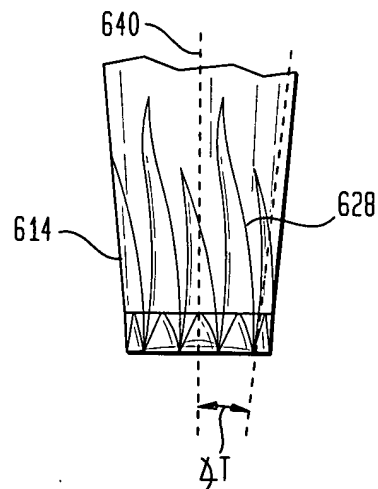


FIG. 6C



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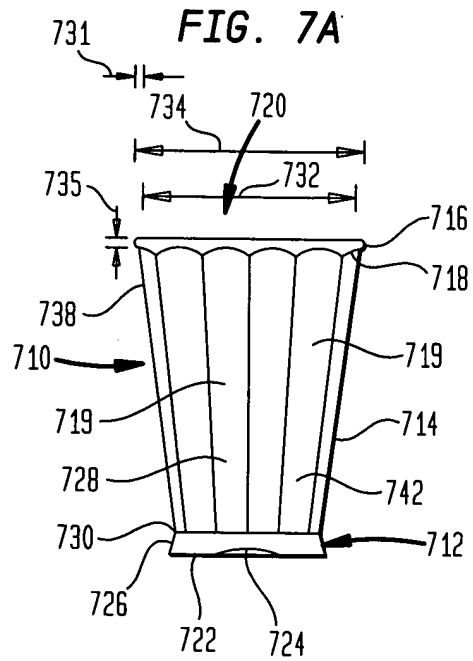
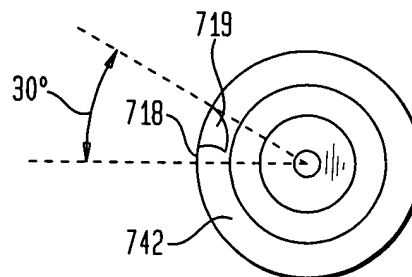
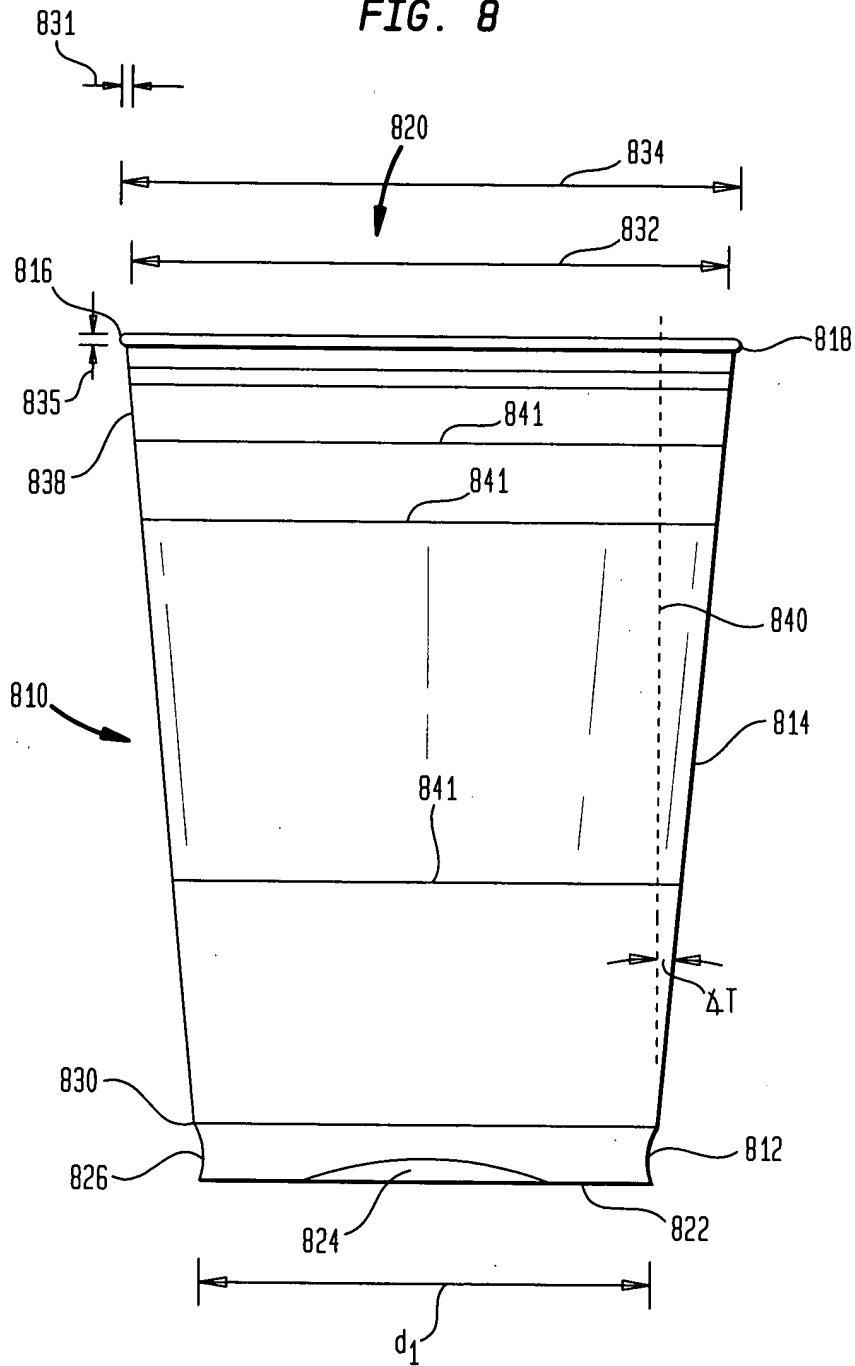


FIG. 7B



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FIG. 8



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FIG. 12

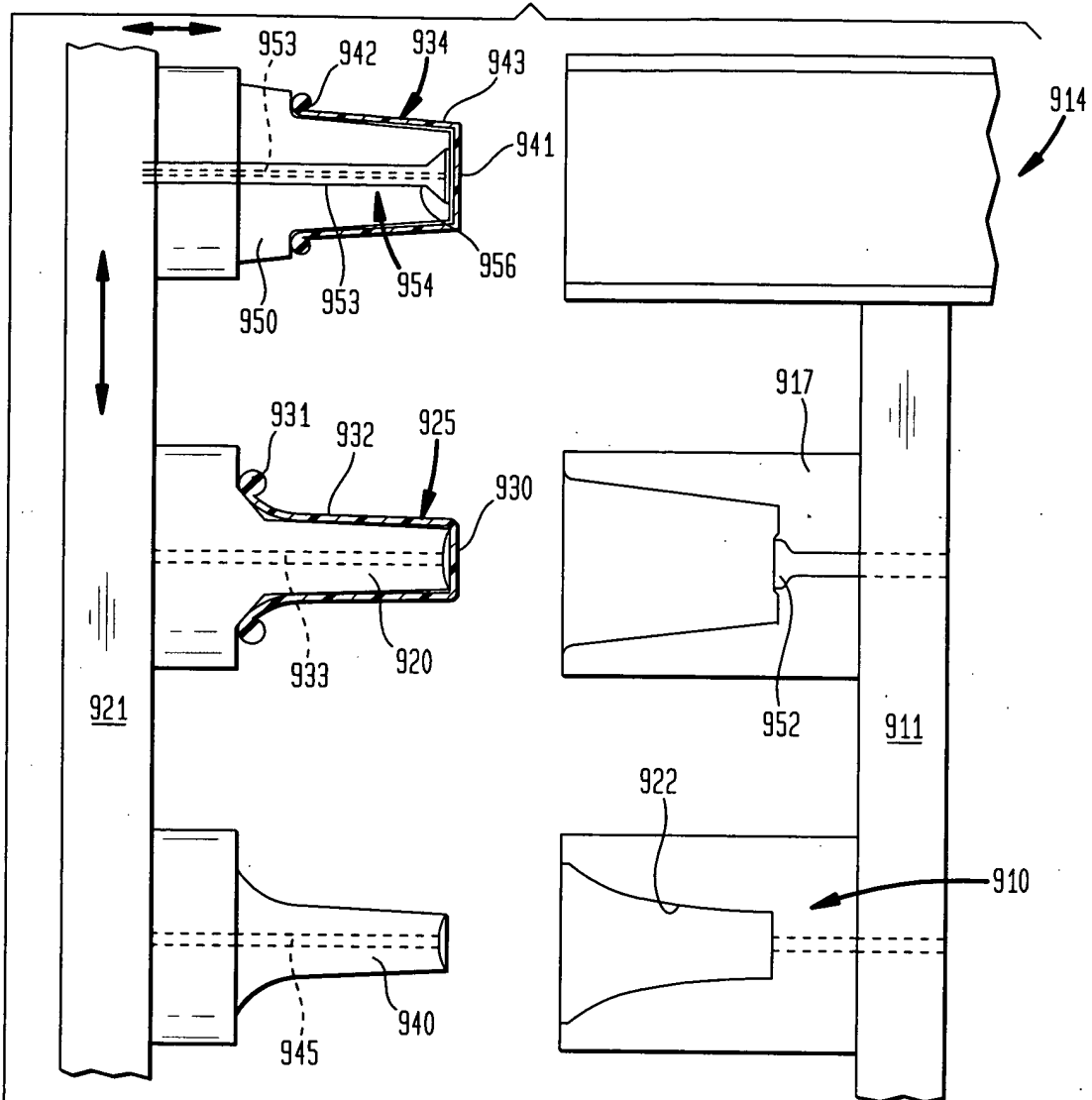
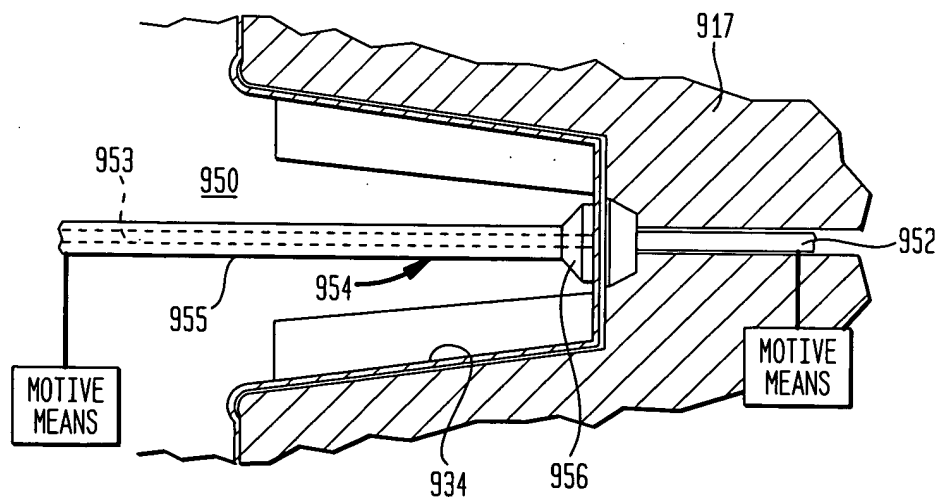


FIG. 13



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FIG. 17A

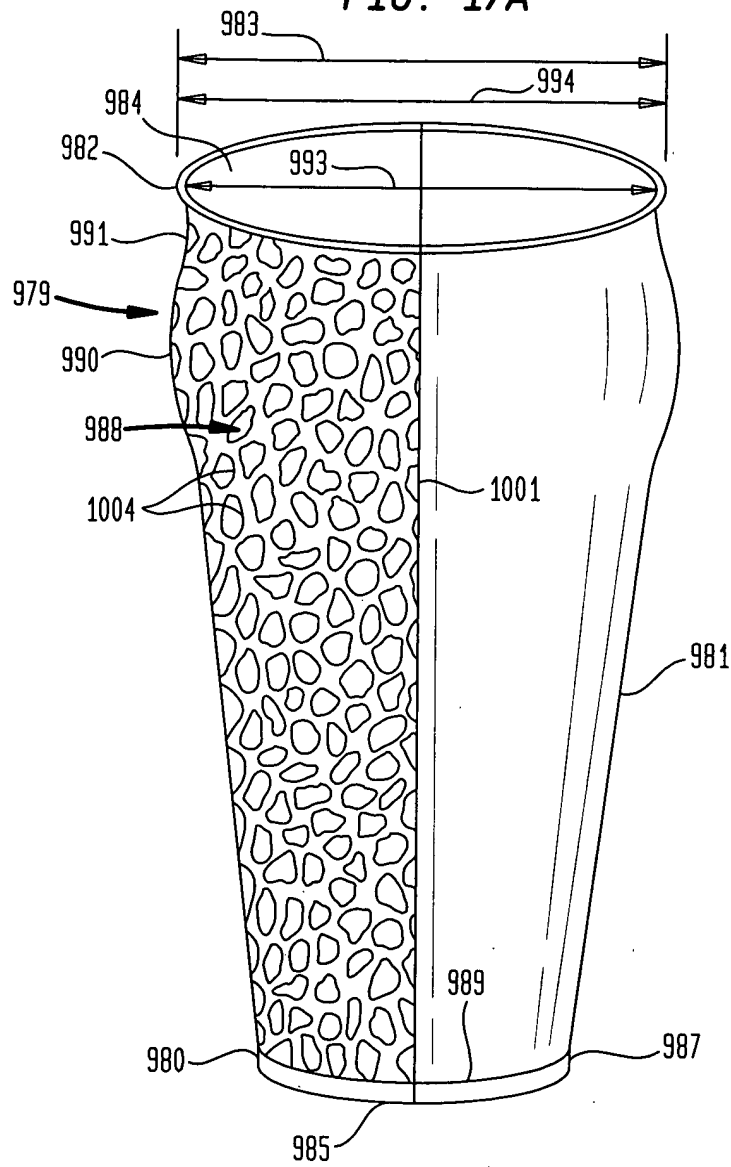


FIG. 17B

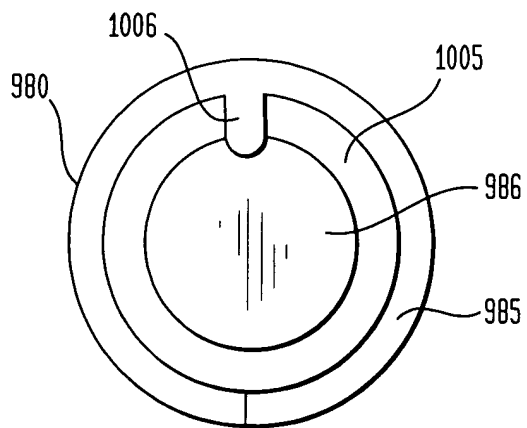


FIG. 17C

